

**4.18 Buffer Zone**

**Bf**

**Definition**

A strip of undisturbed, original land or vegetation surrounding the land-disturbed site or bordering streams.

**Purpose**

Buffer zones serve one or more of the following purposes:

- Reduce storm runoff velocities.
- Filter sediment in runoff water.
- Act as screen for “vision pollution.”
- Reduce construction noise.
- Improve aesthetics on the land disturbed.



**Conditions**

Typically, a natural strip of vegetation should be preserved and, if needed, supplemented to form the buffer zone. Buffer zone requirements are specified by state code or local ordinance, i.e., Chattanooga Landscape Ordinance 10692.

Where necessary, a buffer zone may be installed using the Vegetative Practices included in this manual. In most cases, the buffer zone will be incorporated into the permanent vegetative cover.

**Design Conditions**

A width should be selected to permit the zone to serve the purpose(s) listed above. Supplemental plantings may be used to increase the effectiveness of the buffer zone.